MASS TC20.2:C333/2

Central Artery North Area Project

The job . . . and how to get around it

UMASS/AMHERST
312066 0278 1222 5

Central Artery North Area Project

The Project

The Central Artery North Area (CANA) is a Massachusetts Department of Public Works (MDPW) project designed to make major safety and traffic flow improvements at one of the most accident-prone stretches of highway in the Commonwealth. The reconstruction of the CANA interchange began in May 1987. When the project is completed, the knot of traffic congestion at the point where four roadways come together over the Charles River will be unsnarled. Charlestown's historic City Square will be rejuvenated and its links to the waterfront restored.

Completed Project

- New ramps & tunnels
- Existing structure

As a result of this project, Charlestown residents, commuters and visitors will see the following changes:

☐ The merge distance where I-93, Route 1, Storrow Drive and the Central Artery join to cross the Charles River will be lengthened from 600 to 2,000 feet, greatly increasing safety along New England's most hazardous stretch of highway.

☐ The dangerous "S" curve approach to the Tobin Memorial Bridge from the Central Artery will be eliminated.

☐ All traffic to and from the Tobin Memorial Bridge will travel through tunnels constructed under City Square.

☐ The accessibility of the expressway network from City Square will be enhanced and the local street system improved.

☐ The overhead ramps that shadow Charlestown's City Square today will be demolished, creating open space for parks and future development.

This brochure will help you get into, out of and around the Charlestown City Square area during the largest highway construction project in MDPW history. Although care has been taken to maintain the I-93/Route 1 connections throughout the project, motorists will experience significant changes in local and highway traffic patterns during the next four years and delays are likely. Smart commuters will use alternatives to driving.

Construction and Detours

1987 Early Work

The ramp connecting I-93 south and Route 1 north is closed and traffic is detoured via Routes 99 and 16.

The Charlestown/Constitution Road Exit from Route 1 northbound is closed.

Charlestown-bound traffic on the Central Artery now uses Exit 25 (Causeway Street).

Motorists traveling south on I-93 to Charlestown use Exit 28 (Sullivan Square) to Rutherford Avenue.

Temporary structure and connections
Existing structure

1988 Temporary Detour Structure

A new Water Street on-ramp opens to carry Charlestown traffic to the Tobin Memorial Bridge. This ramp is periodically used as a substitute for the Chelsea Street on-ramp during project construction.

A temporary structure to detour traffic between the Central Artery and Route 1 North/Tobin Memorial Bridge opens and carries traffic for the duration of construction. The structure, which uses the existing elevated northbound roadway, allows for two lanes of traffic northbound.

When the southbound portion of the detour structure opens in October, **the ramp connecting Route 1 south to I-93 north closes** and traffic is detoured via Routes 16 and 28. Traffic traveling from the Tobin Bridge/Route 1 to the Central Artery along the structure is restricted to one lane.

With the opening of the detour structure, **the Park Street on-ramp closes** eliminating direct access to the Central Artery south and I-93 north from City Square.

The connection to the Artery from City Square is made via the North Washington Street Bridge and the Causeway Street on-ramp.

Access to I-93 north from City Square is made via Rutherford Avenue and the I-93 on-ramp north of Sullivan Square.

1989 Digging the Tunnels

The overhead ramp connecting Route 1 south and I-93 north is dismantled and a large trench is dug in the City Square area to accommodate tunnel construction. When completed, two 3-lane tunnels, 800 and 1,400 feet in length, will carry all Route 1/Tobin Memorial Bridge traffic in and out of Boston and to I-93 north.

As this phase begins, **a new Gray Street off-ramp opens** to substitute for the Henley Street off-ramp, which closes in the spring.

I-93 closes periodically in both directions during weekend, late-night and early morning hours to allow the construction of elevated roadways over the Boston Sand and Gravel plant. These new roadways will ultimately be part of the new connections between the Central Artery, I-93 and Route 1.

While access to Charlestown and the Tobin Memorial Bridge is maintained during the CANA project, **the configuration of local streets in and around City Square changes periodically** to accommodate tunnel and ramp construction. The North Washington Street Bridge maintains at least two lanes in each direction at all times.

Alternate route
Construction Area

1991–1992 New Connections

Elevated roadways are completed over the Boston Sand and Gravel plant to connect the Central Artery and Route 1 northbound and southbound, as well as to connect I-93 southbound and Route 1 northbound. **The ramp connecting Route 1 and I-93 northbound is also completed.**

1992–1993 Completion

City Square tunnels and the new approach ramps to the Tobin Memorial Bridge are completed and opened to traffic. The temporary detour structure is demolished and landscaping is completed.

"The MDPW is committed to keeping disruption and inconvenience to a minimum. We ask your cooperation in trying alternate modes of travel to aid the CANA project. With your help it will be as successful as the Southeast Expressway reconstruction."

Commissioner Jane F. Garvey

Charlestown City Square

Before Project Completion N

After Project Completion (Artist's Rendering) N

CANA

Central Artery North Area Project

Commuter Relief

To reduce the impact of CANA construction, state, city and local officials have coordinated road construction schedules, upgraded signals and made safety improvements to secondary routes. Police officers and tow trucks have been assigned to the construction area to further aid the flow of traffic. The most effective way to ease the impact of the construction, however, is to reduce the number of vehicles traveling through the work area. That's why we're beefing up alternatives to driving. The MDPW suggests the following options for commuters:

Try mass transit. The MBTA has already increased capacity on the Red and Orange Lines with the introduction of six-car trains. Green and Blue Line capacity has also been increased. Three thousand seats will be added to commuter rail North Side lines and a stop at Chelsea Station has been added to the Eastern Route. For information about routes, schedules and parking call (617) 722-3200.

Take advantage of free Park and Ride Lots at satellite locations featuring bus and vanpool service. To help commuters through the CANA construction period, the MDPW is constructing two Park and Ride Lots in Chelsea. Call (617) 227-POOL for information.

Know your alternatives. Call CARAVAN at (617) 227-POOL. This nonprofit commuter services company can provide you with complete commuting options, including rapid transit, buses, trains, vanpools and carpools. All information is free of charge.

Talk to your employer about flexible work hours. Beat the crush by avoiding travel during peak commuting periods.

Check out the traffic information and surveillance system. The MDPW will install message boards at key locations along roadways affected by CANA construction. These will inform motorists of construction work, accidents, lane and ramp availability and alternate routes. Video cameras will be installed at important locations to monitor traffic for accidents, breakdowns or tie-ups.

Look for the detour signs directing motorists to alternate routes.

Up-to-date construction information is available. Watch for special informational newspaper inserts, TV and radio announcements, brochures, maps and community meetings to help keep you informed.

Tourist Assistance

Access to all visitors' attractions in Charlestown will be maintained during the CANA project. Call Tourist Information at (617) 536-4100 for information and directions to the USS Constitution and Museum, Bunker Hill Monument, Bunker Hill Pavilion, Charlestown Navy Yard and the Freedom Trail.

CANA Project Hotline (617) 241-5560 or 1-800-545-CANA

A CANA project member is available between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, to give you up-to-date information.

Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116
Jane F. Garvey, Commissioner